

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

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FOL REPEAT BRUSSELS 5929 ACTION SECSTATE INFO THE HAGUE

LONDON USIA JUNE 15, 1976

QUOTE

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STATE FOR CU; USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CSCE, SCUL, GW, XG

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR TRILATERAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 2898, (B) STATE 137791 AND RELATED

1. ON RESULT OF EUROPE-AMERICA YOUTH CONFERENCE
IN THE HAGUE MAY 20-23 WAS DECISION ON PART OF
SEVERAL EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS TO FORM NEW GROUP
CALLED WAY EUROPEAN LIAISON COMMITTEE (WELC) IN
ORDER PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE TO EXISTING EUROPEAN
TRANSNATIONAL YOUTH GROUPS WHICH THEY PERCEIVE AS
LEFTIST DOMINATED. DESPITE ITS NAME, GROUP
APPARENTLY NOT CONNECTED WITH WAY AS SUCH.
PRINCIPAL MOVERS IN WELC APPEAR TO BE TOM SPENCER
OF UK AND STEFAN SCHEPERS, A BELGIAN ASSISTANT
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PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH. SPENCER

IS FORMER PRESIDENT OF YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS (YEF) AND REMAINS ACTIVE IN ORGANIZATION; SCHEPERS, ALSO A YEF MEMBER, IS PRESIDENT OF EUROPEAN COORDINATION BUREAU FOR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS.

2. SPENCER AND SCHEPERS HIGHLY PLEASED WITH RENEWED CONTACTS WITH US YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS ESTABLISHED AT THE HAGUE CONFERENCE. THEY FEEL TIME HAS COME TO PURSUE THESE CONTACTS NOW THAT ANTI-US FEELINGS GENERATED BY VIETNAM WAR LARGELY ABATED, AND DO NOT WISH TO LEAVE FIELD SOLELY TO EUROPEAN GROUPS THEY CONSIDER LEFT ORIENTED AND SEEKING TO MANIPULATE US ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES. (AS EXAMPLE, THEY CITE MACHINCATIONS OVER PARTICIPATION AT UPCOMING WARSAW YOUTH MEETING.)

3. WELC PROPOSES FOLLOW UP HAGUE CONFERENCE WITH ONE DEVOTED TO RELATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS - I.E. NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE ISSUES. THEY WOULD INVITE PARTICIPATION FROM EUROPEAN, AMERICAN AND THIRD WORLD YOUTH GROUPS. THEY HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED INFORMAL ASSURANCE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM EC COMMISSION, AND THEY HAVE APPROACHED USIS-USEC FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT.

4. POST BELIEVES A CONFERENCE ON THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE TIMELY AND LIKELY TO ATTRACT CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. IT COULD WELL SERVE TO PROMOTE US-EUROPEAN YOUTH CONTACTS RE-ESTABLISHED AT THE HAGUE AND WOULD ALSO OFFER OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT US VIEW AND POLICIES ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES TO YOUNG EUROPEAN AND THIRD WORLD POLITICAL ACTIVISTS.

5. MEANINGFUL US PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE WOULD ULTIMATELY DEPEND ON SUPPORT FROM DEPARTMENT O APPROPRIATE US GROUPS TO HELP COVER TRAVEL COSTS. USIS-USEC WISHES KNOW IF DEPARTMENT WILLING IN PRINCIPLE PROVIDE SUCH SUPPORT IN ORDER DECIDE WHETHER POST SHOULD CONTRIBUTE ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUESTED, ESPECIALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR PREPARATORY MEETINGS. WELC HOPES HOLD CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER 1976 AND BEGIN PREPARATORY WORK IN JULY. ACCRODINGLY REQUEST PROMPT REPLY.

6. FYI-POST UNDERSTANDS THAT YEF HOPES ANOTHER FOLLOW-UP TO THE HAGUE CONFERENCE WILL BE MEETING NEXT YEAR IN US ON US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS AND IS ANTICIPATING INVITATIONS FROM US YOUTH COUNCIL

TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A PROJECT. HINTON

UNQUOTE. ROBINSON

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